

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The broadcast flag absolutely will interfere with my ability to record copies of DTV content for my personal use. I travel frequently and record my favorite programs digitally. I then use my laptop to watch the programs at my leisure, on the road. I am currently an early adopter, but the proposed rule will inhibit others from doing the same in the future.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

The broadcast flag also will interfere with my ability to share copies of DTV content between my own devices. I use open source software on my computer - which the broadcasters are unlikely to support. Also, a closed system will inhibit interoperability and limit consumer choice.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

The broadcast flag will definitely limit my ability to use my existing equipment, including my computer video system.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

The broadcast flag will certainly limit the development of future equipment. The most successful vendors aim their products at the needs of the consumer - not that of the media producer. Allowing media producers the level of control over the experience that the broadcast flag allows will by necessity squelch innovation in this area.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The broadcast flag will greatly increase the cost of DTV-capable consumer electronics equipment. The broadcast flag will create a consumer-unfriendly environment, which will limit the adoption of DTV-compatible equipment. Small volume of sales and a low adoption rate will lead to prices remaining high indefinitely.

#### Other Comments:

The release of the VCR and the DVD were two of the greatest sources of new revenue for content producers - despite the fact that they have little to no content protection. Digital rights management is doomed to ultimate failure - video content, like all content, is just data, and cannot be protected without complete control over the entire data pathway. This level of control will kill innovation and interoperability. The video content industry should be required to use the successful strategy of the consumer software industry, which long ago stopped using copy protection - price wisely and market well, making it easy for those who have the resources and desire to pay.